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SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/27/2018

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [RU](#) [GG](#) [MU](#)

SUBJECT: OMANI RESPONSE TO RUSSIA-GEORGIA CONFLICT AND  
RUSSIAN RECOGNITION OF SOUTH OSSETIA AND ABKHAZIA

REF: A. STATE 91894

[1](#)B. STATE 89769

Classified By: Ambassador Gary A. Grappo for Reasons 1.4 (b, d)

(C) Pol-Econ Chief met on August 27 with Humaid al-Maani, Office Director for Ministry of Foreign Affairs Secretary General Sayyid Badr al-Busaidi, to deliver ref A and B points and to urge Oman to support Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity while rejecting Russia's recognition of South Ossetia and Abkhazia as independent states. Al-Maani responded that Oman "regretted" the conflict between Georgia and Russia, and was "concerned" by escalating tensions between Russia and Western countries that would undoubtedly increase as a result of Moscow's move to recognize the independence of the two regions. He made clear, however, that the Omani government would likely not take a public stance or issue any statement on events in the Caucasus. "There is no good reason for us to become involved one way or another," al-Maani stated.  
GRAPPO